

Learning English with CBC Calgary

Weekly newscast

May 6th 2013

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Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



www.alberta.ca

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

News story #1

Vocabulary: Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word	Definition
	1. strike	a) people who protect a place or ensure people's safety
	2. illegal	b) accepted; thought to be okay
	3. guards	c) punishments for wrong doing
	4. remand center	d) to quit working until certain demands are met
	5. penalties	e) communications; relationships
	6. dues	f) to cause something to fall apart or not work well
	7. tolerated	g) to have to pay money for doing something wrong
	8. poison	h) prison; place to wait for trial
	9. relations	i) not allowed by law
	10. fined	j) monthly fees paid to belong to a group

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

To walk out – to go on strike; to stop working until a situation has been solved

AUPE – Alberta Union of Provincial Employees

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

Listening activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Jail guards and other provincial workers are back at work after _____.	a) agreeing with their union b) a 5 day illegal strike
2. The guards at the new Edmonton Remand Centre _____.	a) quit because they thought their union was not safe b) walked out because they thought their building was not safe
3. The union has been fined \$350,000, _____.	a) but the provincial government wants more penalties. b) but the province thinks they were right to strike.
4. Premier Alison Redford says the government wants to ensure the AUPE _____.	a) does not ever go on strike again b) pays the full cost of the strike
5. The justice minister wants to _____ from all AUPE members for six months.	a) stop collecting union dues b) collect money for fines
6. Brian Mason says the government's move could _____ for years to come.	a) change unions in the province b) poison labour relations

Discussion Question

What are some positive things about unions? What are some negative things about unions? Are there labour unions in your home country? Have you ever belonged to a union?

News story #2

Vocabulary

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

outer (distant)	edges (border)	promised (guarantee)
advanced (excellent)	features (factors)	ventilation (fresh air)
circulation (new supply)		

1. Many new houses in Calgary have been built at the _____ of the city.
2. I love my new office because you can open the windows and get excellent _____.
3. My boss _____ me that I could take a vacation in July and I hope he doesn't change his mind.
4. My new car has _____ fuel economy, which saves me lots of money.
5. I often open two windows on different sides of my apartment to improve the _____ of air when it is hot at night.
6. The _____ on my new phone are a bit confusing but my son helped me to set it up.

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. _____ Calgary is getting 19 new schools.
2. _____ The new schools will be built at edges of the city.
3. _____ There will be spaces for more than 7,500 students.
4. _____ The Alberta government is promising to spend more than \$500 million on new schools in Calgary. .
5. _____ The new schools will have excellent design details..

Discussion Question

Do you think it is a good idea to build new schools at the outer edges of Calgary? Is it better to build schools or hospitals? Is it better to build schools or cut taxes?

News story #3

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

The words below are from the second news story. Choose the group of synonyms (words with similar meaning that best match each of the vocabulary words). *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
	1) marathon	a) blamed charged presumed guilty
	2) suspect	b) researchers examiners inspectors
	3) accused	c) dynamite light display explosives
	4) evidence	d) 42 Km race a long distance run 26 mile run
	5) fireworks	e) not true fake made up
	6) false	f) proof clues information about a crime
	7) investigators	g) person believe to be guilty possible criminal questionable person

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

in connection with – to have something to do with; to have some relationship with

get rid of – to hide or put in the garbage

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Why did the police arrest three people?
2. Who are the three people arrested?
3. Where are two of the suspects from?
4. What are these two suspects accused of doing?
5. What is the third man charged with?
6. Where is the third man from?

Discussion Question

Why do you think Tsarnayev's friends might have tried to help him get rid of the criminal evidence? What would you do to help a friend or family member in trouble?

Language Focus

Identifying Adjectives

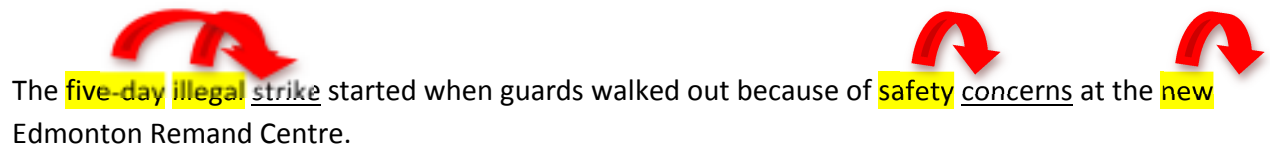
Adjectives are words that describe or give more information about nouns and pronouns. We use adjectives to enhance ideas or help us describe something clearly. An adjective usually comes before a noun that it modifies.

Adjectives tell us an observation, opinion, a physical description, the origin, the material, purpose and the number of nouns. Adjectives are not necessary for a sentence to make sense, but they help our reader/listener better understand what we are describing.

Look at some examples from the stories this week. The adjectives are highlighted and the nouns they describe are underlined.

 Jail guards and other provincial workers are back at work after an illegal strike.

Without the adjectives the sentence reads: Guards and worker are back at work after a strike. Notice that the adjectives provide extra information so we can better understand the situation.

 The five-day illegal strike started when guards walked out because of safety concerns at the new Edmonton Remand Centre.

Notice that some nouns have more than one adjective to describe them. When we use more than one adjective the adjectives must appear in a **certain order**:

Determiner	Opinion	Size	Shape	Age	Color	Origin	Material	Qualifier/ purpose	Noun
one	beautiful	large		old	brown	Korean	wood	tea	table
several		small			gold	Chinese	silk		dresses
many	angry					Albertan		jail	guards

Look though the stories this week and see how many adjectives you can find. Highlight the adjectives and underline nouns or pronouns they describe. *Some answers are in the appendix.*

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	MAY 3 RD WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Carla Beynon. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for May 3 rd .	0:00
Story 1	Jail guards and other provincial workers are back at work after an illegal strike. Their union reached an agreement with the province late Tuesday night. The five-day illegal strike started when guards walked out because of safety concerns at the new Edmonton Remand Centre. The union has been fined 350 thousand dollars. But the provincial government wants more penalties. Premier Alison Redford says the government wants to ensure the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees pays the full cost of the strike. And justice minister Jonathan Denis also wants a stop to collecting union dues from all AUPE members in the public service for the next six months. Denis says illegal job action in Alberta will not be tolerated. NDP leader Brian Mason says the government's move could poison labour relations for years to come.	0:08
Story 2	Calgary is getting 9 new schools. The provincial government says the schools will be built on the city's fast growing outer edges in the southeast, northeast and northwest. They will add about 7,550 student spaces and are expected to be ready for class by 2016. The Redford government has promised \$503 million over three years for new schools in Alberta's fast growing communities. They will feature advanced systems and features such as large windows that give natural lighting and ventilation systems to improve air quality and circulation.	1:08
Story 3	Police have arrested three more people in connection with the bombings at the Boston marathon last month. They are college classmates of the surviving bombing suspect - 19-year-old Dzhohar Tsarnayev. Two of them are students from Kazakhstan. They are accused of helping Tsarnayev to get rid of the evidence - including a backpack with fireworks, and a laptop. Another man - a U-S citizen - is charged with giving false information to the investigators.	1:51

Answer keys

News story 1

Vocabulary

Answer	Word	Definition
d	1. strike	a) people who protect a place or ensure people's safety
i	2. illegal	b) accepted; thought to be okay
a	3. guards	c) punishments for wrong doing
h	4. remand center	d) to quit working until certain demands are met
c	5. penalties	e) communications; relationships
j	6. dues	f) to cause something to fall apart or not work well
b	7. tolerated	g) to have to pay money for doing something wrong
f	8. poison	h) prison; place to wait for trial
e	9. relations	i) not allowed by law
g	10. fined	j) monthly fees paid to belong to a group

Listening

1. Jail guards and other provincial workers are back at work after _____.	a) agreeing with their union b) a 5 day illegal strike
2. The guards at the new Edmonton Remand Centre _____.	a) quit because they thought their union was not safe b) walked out because they thought their building was not safe
3. The union has been fined \$350,000, _____.	a) but the provincial government wants more penalties. b) but the province thinks that they were right to strike.
4. Premier Alison Redford says the government wants to ensure the AUPE _____.	a) does not ever go on strike again b) pays the full cost of the strike
5. The justice minister wants to _____ from all AUPE members for six months.	a) stop collecting union dues b) collect money for fines
6. Brian Mason says the government's move could _____ for years to come.	a) change unions in the province b) poison labour relations

News story 2

Vocabulary

- Many new houses in Calgary have been built at the outer edges of the city.
- I love my new office because you can open the windows and get excellent ventilation.
- My boss promised me that I could take a vacation in July and I hope he doesn't change his mind.
- My new car has advanced fuel economy, which saves me lots of money.

5. I often open two windows on different sides of my apartment to improve the circulation of air when it is hot at night.
6. The features on my new phone are a bit confusing but my son helped me to set it up.

Listening

1. **F** Calgary is getting 19 new schools.
2. **T** The new schools will be built at edges of the city.
3. **T** There will be spaces for more than 7,500 students.
4. **F** The Alberta government is promising to spend more than \$500 million on new schools in Calgary. .
5. **T** The new schools will have excellent design details..

News story 3

Vocabulary

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
d	1) marathon	a) blamed charged presumed guilty
g	2) suspect	b) researchers examiners inspectors
a	3) accused	c) dynamite light display explosives
f	4) evidence	d) 42 Km race a long distance run 26 mile run
c	5) fireworks	e) not true fake made up
e	6) false	f) proof clues information about a crime
b	7) investigators	g) person believe to be guilty possible criminal questionable person

Listening

1. Why did the police arrest three people? *The police thought they were connected with the bombings at the Boston marathon last month.*
2. Who are the three people arrested? *They are college classmates of the surviving bombing suspect.*
3. Where are two of the suspects from? *Two of them are students from Kazakhstan.*
4. What are the two suspects accused of? *They are accused of helping Tsarnayev to get rid of the evidence – including a backpack with fireworks and a laptop.*
5. What is the third man charged with? *The third man is charged with giving false information to investigators.*
6. Where is the third man from? *He is from the US.*

Language Focus

Examples of adjectives from the stories this week:

But the provincial government wants **more** penalties.

Premier Alison Redford says the government wants to ensure the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees pays the **full** cost of the strike.

NDP leader Brian Mason says the government's move could poison **labour** relations for years to come.

Police have arrested **three more** people in connection with the bombings at the **Boston** marathon last month.

They are **college** classmates of the **surviving** bombing suspect - **19 year old** Dzhohar Tsarnayev.

Another man - a U-S citizen - is charged with giving **false** information to the investigators.